

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A method of producing noodles comprising the steps of:

flattening a noodle dough to a sheet-like shape with spreading rollers;

forming slits in the flattened noodle dough so as to make plural lines of slits by a round blade which has a circular-arc portion and a notch wherein the slits are formed along the transfer direction of the noodle dough, the lines being spaced at even intervals in the transverse direction and the slits of each line being spaced at even intervals in the transfer direction; and

cutting off the noodle dough at positions between the adjacent lines of the slits by a noodle cutter which is apart from the round blade, in the ~~said~~ transfer direction of the dough.